

The Fulbright Program was established by Congress in 1946 and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. This program was designed to help build mutual understanding between Americans and the global community. Individuals who are awarded this distinction have demonstrated outstanding academic or professional achievement and have proven themselves as leaders in their field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Ms. Ambors and wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE UNITED STATES
ARMY'S RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES
INITIATIVE UPON ITS
10TH YEAR

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tenth year of a unique program in the annals of our Nation's proud military heritage. On January 28, 1999, the Honorable Mahlon Apgar, IV, then Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Logistics and Environment, first presented the Residential Communities Initiative, known as RCI, in a briefing to the Urban Land Institute. Few in that distinguished audience of real estate developers, financiers and public officials appreciated the far-reaching impact that RCI would have on the Army, on industry, and, most importantly, on improving the quality of life for thousands of military families.

At that time, the Army faced a monumental challenge in its Government-owned housing and infrastructure. Seventy-five percent of the family housing on Army posts was substandard, and the poor conditions were hurting recruiting and retention. Military communities lacked amenities that most other Americans enjoyed. The Army's construction and maintenance backlog exceeded \$6 billion, with no predictable funding sources in sight. Complicated, cumbersome business processes caused significant delays in planning and executing housing programs.

Today, as we start RCI's tenth year, it is a major success. In fact, the Bush Administration calls RCI the "most important military housing improvement program in our Nation's history." I am honored to have played a leadership role in RCI from its start. Despite numerous challenges in policy, organization and execution, RCI has achieved high satisfaction rates among military families, lower development costs and faster construction, better housing, neighborhoods and community facilities, and more responsive maintenance and management. RCI encompasses over 88,000 new and renovated multi-family housing units—97 percent of the Army's U.S. housing stock—located on 45 installations in 20 states. RCI communities are purposefully and profitably built and managed by nine major real estate development groups and are financed with \$10 billion of new private capital, achieving 10-to-1 leverage of public investment—an exceptional result for the taxpayer. RCI projects are pioneering the use of manufac-

tured housing, solar-powered and "green building" techniques, and "new urbanism" design concepts for safe, walkable neighborhoods, with community centers and leisure facilities that are especially important to military spouses and children during long deployments. RCI has spawned other military privatization programs for Army lodging, unaccompanied housing, retail and "lifestyle" centers, office parks and warehouse developments. RCI has become one of the Federal Government's largest public-private partnership programs.

I was proud to help Secretary Apgar steer RCI through four Congressional committees and a skeptical Army leadership. With no prior Washington experience but a clear vision of the future, a gracious manner and a pragmatic approach, he bore the brunt of considerable criticism and built coalitions among numerous stakeholders across the political and commercial spectrum.

Many saw RCI as a dilution of control, a diversion of resources, and a haven for profiteering. But Secretary Apgar saw it as a means of expanding the Army's military construction budgets with private capital, enlisting the entrepreneurship and capabilities of American business, and reforming the Army's approach to meeting infrastructure needs.

Madam Speaker, RCI has progressed from the vision and persistence of a single official, through the minefields of committee oversight and staff reviews and the complexities of our vast military organization, to a mature, sustainable, bipartisan, public-private partnership effort. At a time of enormous sacrifice by our soldiers and their loved ones, we can be proud of a program that provides military families with the quality housing and communities they so deserve. And in an era of economic stress, we should look to RCI for lessons that may help to meet our national challenges in rebuilding infrastructure and managing resources.

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE
MURDER OF JOURNALIST HRANT
DINK

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, it is with a mixture of anger and sadness that I rise today to honor the 1-year anniversary of the murder of Hrant Dink, the courageous Armenian-Turkish journalist, who was murdered by a Turkish extremist.

Mr. Dink founded the bilingual newspaper Agos in 1996, giving a voice to Turkey's Armenians. He acted on his beliefs of building community and acknowledging the past, for which he was persecuted, prosecuted and eventually forced to pay the ultimate price. Clearly, however, his life's work was not in vain; at his funeral, approximately 100,000 people marched behind his coffin, chanting, "We are all Dink. We are all Armenians."

Before Mr. Dink's untimely death last January, the Turkish government constantly tried to limit his freedom of speech. It confiscated cop-

ies of Agos on many occasions and on the flimsiest of pretenses. In 2004, Mr. Dink wrote an article stating that Turkey's first woman pilot was an Armenian orphan adopted after 1915. The government convicted him of insulting "Turkishness" under Article 301 of the Penal Code, a law specifically designed to prevent discussion of the Armenian Genocide. He received a 6-month suspended sentence. This was just one of several such prosecutions against Mr. Dink.

Mr. Dink's courage to confront the historical facts of the Armenian Genocide cost him his life. He continually received threatening telephone calls, e-mails, and letters. He reported this terrorization to the police, but they failed to protect him. On January 19, 2007, an extreme nationalist teenager shot Mr. Dink three times outside the Agos offices in Istanbul, killing him. Court hearings continue, but Mr. Dink's family stated that the investigation of his murder was conducted in secrecy and is incomplete.

Turkish prosecutions under Article 301 increased in 2007 and continued to affect Mr. Dink's family. Arat Dink, his son, published an interview in which Mr. Dink said that the 1915 to 1917 Armenian massacres constituted genocide. Last October Arat Dink received a 1-year suspended sentence for publishing this interview. Punishing Mr. Dink's son for publishing his murdered father's words is a travesty and exposes the lengths to which Ankara will go to hide the truth about the Armenian Genocide.

Mr. Dink's death was devastating to the democratic principle of a free and unfettered press and to the efforts of a handful of Turkish intellectuals who have been fighting to expose the crimes of Turkey's Ottoman predecessor. Denying the Armenian Genocide harms Turkey and imperils the future of this important nation. As the world marks the anniversary of Dink's murder, I reiterate my call for Turkey to honor the memory of Hrant Dink by repealing Article 301, and to acknowledge the truth of the Armenian Genocide.

Together with his family and colleagues, the Armenian community in Turkey, and his admirers around the world, we remember Hrant Dink, heroic defender of speech and human rights, on the 1-year anniversary of his murder.

CONGRATULATING LESLIE
ANDERSON

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDI

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. TANCREDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Leslie Anderson of Longmont, Colorado. Ms. Anderson is a political science student at the University of Florida and is a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Award. This grant is given to promising individuals to aid them in their academic and cultural pursuits abroad.

The Fulbright Program was established by Congress in 1946 and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. This program was designed to help build mutual understanding between Americans and the global community.

Individuals who are awarded this distinction have demonstrated outstanding academic or professional achievement and have proven themselves as leaders in their field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Ms. Anderson and wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I was in the Chamber when votes were cast on H.R. 3524, the HOPE VI Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2007. I listened to the debate, voted on all the amendments and the Motion to Recommit. However, due to circumstances beyond my control, I was unable to cast a vote of "aye" on the final passage of H.R. 3524.

CONGRATULATING FRANCES TRUJILLO

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. Frances Trujillo of Littleton, Colorado. Mr. Trujillo is a leadership and management administrator at Colorado Academy and is a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Award. This grant is given to promising individuals to aid them in their academic and cultural pursuits abroad.

The Fulbright Program was established by Congress in 1946 and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. This program was designed to help build mutual understanding between Americans and the global community. Individuals who are awarded this distinction have demonstrated outstanding academic or professional achievement and have proven themselves as leaders in their field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Mr. Trujillo and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARK TULCHINSKY OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Mark Tulchinsky, a leader in the South Bend Community School Corporation, a mentor, father, educator, and beloved member of the community. Mr. Tulchinsky passed away while working in his office at Tarkington Traditional School on January 22, 2008.

Tulchinsky's peers describe him as "a good friend and an excellent principal." He was the perfect example of an empathetic and kind-hearted principal as well as a tremendous friend and mentor. Whether it was taking part in school sports or activities or dealing with serious situations and discipline issues within his school, Tulchinsky was able to handle his position as a leader with poise and compassion.

Former students and colleagues said he had an uncanny ability to remember the names and faces of students, even decades after he taught them. We should all return this favor, by remembering and thanking him for his service to the young people of his community. There is no doubt that he positively impacted the lives of countless individuals. Throughout his life, he dedicated himself to bettering the community through volunteering and mentoring.

After graduating from Adams High school in South Bend, Tulchinsky attended the University of Chicago where he earned a bachelor's degree in history. He then returned to his hometown and began his lifelong career in education. Through the South Bend Community School Corporation, Tulchinsky began teaching at Perley Elementary in 1968. He taught for a few years as a fourth grade teacher, and in the process furthered his education by earning a master's degree in 1974 from the University of Notre Dame. Later, Tulchinsky gave back to the Notre Dame community by operating the shot clock for Notre Dame men's and women's basketball teams as well as timekeeping at Notre Dame home football games.

In 1979, Tulchinsky began his lengthy career in administration, first serving as assistant principal for Jefferson School. He went on to serve as a principal for McKinley, Perley, Jefferson, Monroe, and Tarkington Schools. Throughout his 39-year career in education, students called him by the affectionate nickname of Mr. T. In addition to his service in education, Tulchinsky was a big supporter of local athletic teams. He officiated for both basketball and football games, including the IHSA Class 2A football championship in 1983. His dedication to both athletics and education was evident in 1994 when he suffered a heart attack while officiating for basketball; he returned to teaching after his recovery.

Tulchinsky is survived by his wife of 38 years, Nan; three grown children, Peter, Daniel, and Sarah; four grandchildren, Abbey, Emma, Payton, and Jacob; as well as a myriad of students whose lives he touched. He will be greatly missed for his dedication to teaching, his devotion to the community, and his warm love for all those around him.

RECOGNIZING LIBBY WATSON FOR HER YEARS OF DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO THE CITY OF FORTH WORTH, TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Fort Worth Assistant

City Manager Libby Watson and her years of dedication and service to the City of Fort Worth, Texas. Ms. Watson has been with the City of Fort Worth for almost 20 years, since 1989, and has recently decided to retire.

Ms. Watson began her career with the City of San Diego in their Financial Management Department in 1974, and was later appointed the Financial Management Director of the City in June of 1982. In 1986 she moved to Austin, Texas, where she became Assistant City Manager. Then, in 1989, she moved back to her hometown of Fort Worth to become the Assistant City Manager.

Outside of her job, Watson is very active in her community. She participates in various activities such as assisting with Girl Scouts, and she is the Treasurer for the Circle T Council Board of Directors.

Under Ms. Watson's leadership, Fort Worth has become a model city for the surrounding area. I know that the decision for retirement was not an easy one for her to make. I join the City of Fort Worth and all those who are fortunate enough to know Ms. Watson in wishing her all the best as she looks forward to spending more time with her family. The City of Fort Worth will truly miss her experience and leadership.

It is with great honor that I recognize Libby Watson for her years of hard work and selfless dedication given to the citizens of Fort Worth, Texas. I am proud to represent her in Washington, and her service will set a standard of devotion and true leadership, one that will never be forgotten.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. AND MRS. JEFFREY HUNT ON JANUARY 20, 2008 WEDDING

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, on Sunday, January 20, 2008, my legislative assistant, Nicole Schouten, married Jeffrey Hunt in San Diego, California. Nicole met Jeff at Westmont College in the bookstore on campus. She was a store clerk and he was looking for an excuse to get to know Nicole so he frequently stopped in for a soda. Although they were both intrigued with each other the timing for their relationship wasn't right and they parted ways. Six years later, Jeff and Nicole reconnected in Washington, DC, while working on Capitol Hill.

Nicole and Jeff perfectly compliment each other not only in their political views, but in their desire to make their community and world a better place. Jeff devotes his time and talents to serving the people of Vienna Presbyterian Church and the youth of Arlington, Virginia as a Young Life leader. In addition to her busy job and law school obligations, Nicole volunteers with the Make-A-Wish Foundation and the Big Sister/Little Sister program.

In August 2007 Jeff surprised Nicole with a week long trip to Holland. They spent 4 days exploring Amsterdam and the surrounding countryside, giving Nicole an opportunity to connect to her Dutch heritage. On August 11, 2007, in the Oude Kerk, Amsterdam's first parish, Jeff asked for Nicole's hand in marriage. Nicole, of course, accepted with enthusiasm.